



## Florida House of Representatives

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**Johnnie Byrd**  
Speaker

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### **SPEAKER JOHNNIE BYRD ANNOUNCES MAJOR FUNDING INITIATIVE FOR HOMELAND SECURITY**

TALLAHASSEE- House Speaker Johnnie Byrd (R-Plant City) outlined a major effort to fund homeland security initiatives in Florida today. Speaker Byrd was joined by ranking officers of the Florida National Guard and county sheriffs serving on Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

“The proposal we are outlining today will include a \$75 million state investment for specific homeland security and military preparedness infrastructure,” said Speaker Byrd. “The Florida House remains committed to taking the steps necessary to provide our law enforcement and National Guard with the tools they need to defend our cities, streets, and shores.”

Specific security and enforcement programs include:

- Enhanced Regional Specialty Teams-\$1.9 million
- Emergency Operation Center Upgrades-\$1.7 million
- Mobile Area Communications Upgrades-\$6.6 million
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Training and Sustainment Funds-\$2.0 million
- Detecting Fraudulent Identification-\$2 million
- Mutual Aid Infrastructure-\$12.4 million
- Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium-\$1.5 million

In recent months, the House Coordinating Committee on Public Security has traveled the state taking testimony from law enforcement, local officials, and other Floridians. Today’s proposal reflects a comprehensive and extensive funding response to the security and preparedness needs expressed in those forums.

“Floridians and those visiting Florida should know that their safety and security are our utmost priority,” said Representative Dudley Goodlette (R-Naples), chairman of the House Coordinating Committee on Public Security. “These are just the next steps toward better protecting all Floridians.”

The House budget also provides significant funding to improve the Florida National Guard and give our troops the support they need, including:

- Armory Repairs-\$35 million
- Integrated Emergency Operations Management Systems-\$738,000

- Disaster Recovery for Continuity of Operations Plan-\$317,748
- Kevlar Vest/Body Armor-\$500,000

Additional homeland and public security programs eligible for any unspent dollars include:

- Statewide Anti-Terrorist Training Center for First Responders-\$1 million
- Military Base Retention Infrastructure-\$5 million
- Ports Security Patrols-\$10 million
- Port Access Control-\$5 million
- Florida Highway Patrol-\$7.3 million
- Florida Institute for Nuclear Security-\$450,000

“Floridians have led the way in securing the homeland since 9/11,” said Representative Bruce Kyle (R-Fort Myers), chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. “We are putting tax dollars to good use in furtherance of that mission.”

Joining Speaker Byrd and House leaders at today’s announcement were:

- Okaloosa County Sheriff Morris Charles. Sheriff Charles serves as co-chair of the Region 1 Domestic Security Task Force
- Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary. Sheriff Beary serves as co-chair of the Region 5 Domestic Security Task Force
- Maj. General Douglas Burnett, Florida National Guard
- Col. Barry Appleby, State Quartermaster for the Florida National Guard
- Mr. Dan Myerholtz, Budget Director for Florida Department of Military Affairs
- Col. Glenn Sutphin, Legislative Director, Florida Department of Military Affairs
- David Murrell, Executive Director, Florida PBA

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